Rowley Regis Urban District Council,

STAFFORDSHIRE.

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1897,

OF

The Medical Officer of Health,

WITH

Schedules of Work done in the Departments

OF

The Surveyor,

AND

The Sanitary Inspector.

CRADLEY HEATH:

Printed by the Cradley Printing Co., Printers and Stationers,

1898.

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TABLE I.

Showing the BIRTHS, DEATHS, and Rate of Mortality in the Year 1897.

Births.	Deaths.	Birth Rate.	Annual Death Rate per 1,000 from					Per-centage of Deaths under One Year to Births Regist'd.	Percentage of Total Deaths to Deaths					
			All Causes.	Zymotic Diseases.	Phthisis.	Lungs.	Heart.		Of Infants under One Year of Age	Of Persons over 65 Years of Age.	From Zymotic Diseases.	From Phthisis.	From Lungs.	From Heart.
1304	598	37·8	17·3	2 29	·37	3·74	·695	18·17	39·6	17·05	13·21	2·17	21·5	4·01

TABLE II.

Showing the BIRTHS and DEATHS from all causes and from certain special causes in each Quarter of 1897.

Quarter ending	Births.	Deaths from all eauses.	DEATHS FROM			
			Zymotic Diseases.	Phthisis.	Disease of Lungs.	Heart Disease.
March 31st	366	164	11	4	53	9
June 30th	313	131	11	3	28	5
September 30th... ...	304	138	37	1	18	6
December 31st	321	165	20	5	30	4
Total	1304	598	79	13	129	24

TABLE III.

Showing the Rate of Mortality in each Quarter of 1897.

Quarter ending	Death Rate per 1000 per annum from all causes.	PERCENTAGE PER ANNUM OF TOTAL DEATHS TO DEATHS		
		Of Infants under One Year of Age.	Of Persons over 65 Years of Age.	Zymotic Diseases.
March 31st	4·75	9·53	5·35	1·84
June 30th	3·8	8·19	3·34	1·84
September 30th... ...	4	10·7	3·17	6·18
Deeember 31st	4·78	11·2	5·18	3·34
Total	17·33	39·62	17·04	13·20

TABLE IV.

Showing the number of DEATHS at Two Groups of Ages from the Principal Zymotic Diseases in each Quarter of 1897.

Quarter ending	8 Principal Zymotic Diseases		Small Pox		Croup		Scarlet Fever		Diphtheria		Puerperal Fever		Typhoid Fever		Cholera		Erysipelas	
	Under 5	Over 5	Under 5	Over 5	Under 5	Over 5	Under 5	Over 5	Under 5	Over 5	Under 5	Over 5	Under 5	Over 5	Under 5	Over 5	Under 5	Over 5
March 31st ...	2	2	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
June 30th ...	3	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
September 30th	2	7	0	0	0	0	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
December 31st	3	8	0	0	1	1	2	2	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
Total ...	10	17	0	0	3	1	5	9	0	1	0	1	1	3	0	0	1	2

TABLE V.

Supplementary Table showing number of DEATHS at Two Groups of Ages from other Zymotic Diseases not included in Table IV.

Quarter ending	Measles		Whooping Cough		Diarrhœa		Influenza	
	Under 5	Over 5	Under 5	Over 5	Under 5	Over 5	Under 5	Over 5
March 31st ...	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	3
June 30th ..	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	5
September 30th ...	0	0	3	0	24	1	0	0
December 31st ...	0	0	1	0	7	0	0	1
Total ...	0	0	8	0	34	1	0	9

LOCAL GOVERNM

ANNUAL REPORT OF MED

URBAN SANITARY D

(A) *TABLE OF DEATHS during the Year 189*
Diseases,

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities. (*Columns for Population and Births are in Table B.*)	Mortality from all causes at subjoined ages.								Morta		
	At all ages	Under 1 year	1 year and under 5	5 years and under 15	15 years and under 25	25 years and under 65	65 years and upwards		Smallpox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria
ROWLEY REGIS URBAN DISTRICT.	598	237	78	24	24	133	102	Under 5	0	5	0
								5 upwds.	0	9	1
Deaths occurring outside the district among persons belonging thereto	11	0	0	0	0	4	7	Under 5	0	0	0
								5 upwds.	0	0	0

(B) *Table of POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF*
knowledge of the Medical Officer of Hea
classified according to Diseases, Ages, an

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	Population at all ages.		Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5.
	Last Census.	Estimated to middle of 1897.		
ROWLEY REGIS URBAN DISTRICT.	30791	34500	1304	Under 5
				5 upwds

Is "Notification of Infectious Diseases" Compulso
Is an Isolation Hospital available for the

BOARD RETURNS.

OFFICER OF HEALTH, 1897.

OF ROWLEY REGIS.

Rowley Regis Urban District, classified according to
Localities.

subjoined causes, distinguishing Deaths of Children under Five Years of Age.

FEVERS.																
Enteric or Typhoid	Continued	Relapsing	Puerperal	Cholera	Erysipelas	Measles	Whooping Cough	Diarrhœa and Dysentery	Rheumatic Fever	Phthisis	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy	Heart Disease	Influenza	Injuries	All other Diseases	TOTAL.
1	0	0	0	0	1	0	8	34	0	0	53	1	0	9	200	315
3	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	1	0	13	76	23	9	14	130	283
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	7	11

CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, coming to the
g the year 1897, in the Rowley Regis Urban District;
ities.

CASES OF SICKNESS IN EACH LOCALITY, COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	FEVERS.					Cholera.	Erysipelas.
		Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.		
1	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	4
5	1	0	17	0	0	4	0	40

District?—Yes. Since when?—February 1st, 1890.
—For Smallpox only, situated at Tividale.

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(A) *DEATHS Registered during the year*
Localities; showing also the Popula
during the year.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	Population.		Registered Births.			Deaths from all causes at subjoined ages.								
						At all ages.								
	Census, 1891.	Estimated to middle of 1897.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Under 1 year.	1 year and under 5.	5 years and under 15.	15 years and under 25.	25 years and under 65.	65 years and
ROWLEY REGIS URBAN DISTRICT.	30791	34500	645	659	1304	297	301	598	237	78	24	24	133	1
Deaths occurring outside the District among persons belonging thereto, which may be added to the above in estimating the rate of mortality						5	6	11	0	0	0	0	4	

(B) *NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICK*
Office of Health during the year 189
the Total Number of Deaths, also th
occurred in Infectious Hospitals.

		Smallpox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria
Houses infected.....	233	0	159	6
Total cases reported among persons belonging to District.....	Under 5	0	117	1
	5 & upwards	0	188	5
Total deaths reported among persons belonging to District	Under 5	0	5	0
	5 & upwards	0	9	1

Is "Notification of Infectious Diseases" Compulsory in included among the Diseases notified?—No. Is Whooping available for the District?—For Smallpox only. Area of Distri

assified according to Diseases, Ages, and such Localities and the Births therein

Mortality from subjoined causes, distinguishing deaths of Children under 5 years of age.

	Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Fevers. Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhœa or Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	Total.
r 5.	0	5	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	8	34	0	0	53	1	9	200	315
wds.	0	9	1	1	0	3	0	0		0	2	0	0	1	0	13	76	23	14	139	283
r 5.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
wds.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	7	0

coming to the knowledge of the Medical merating the Number of Houses Infected, ber of Cases Treated and the Deaths that

Typhus Fever.	Enteric Fever	Continued Fever.	Relapsing Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.
0	16	0	0	4	0	44		
0	1	0	0	0	0	4	0	0
0	17	0	0	4	0	40	0	0
0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	8
0	3	0	0	1	0	2	0	0

t ?—Yes. Since when ?—February 1st, 1890. Is Measles ong the Diseases notified ?—No. Is an Isolation Hospital ?—3,670.

Rowley Regis Urban District Council.

—o—

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

For the Year ending Dec. 31st, 1897.

—o—

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

This report like its predecessors will contain a condensed account of the Births, Deaths, Rates of Mortality from general and special causes, cases of Infectious Sickness notified, and an Epitome of the Sanitary work for the past year.

The Tables I to V, are condensed statistics of my own arrangement. The Tables A. and B. Local Government Forms and A. B. and C. County Council Forms are as demanded by those two bodies.

The calculations are all based on an estimated population of thirty four thousand five hundred inhabitants.

Locality. Sanitary Urban District of Rowley Regis.	Area in Acres	Inhabited Houses.	Void Houses	Population	
				Census 1891.	Estimated to middle of 1897.
Tividale Ward ...	948	533	17	2632	
Rowley Regis Ward	1347	937	14	5006	
Blackheath Ward ..	188	1214	1	5830	
Old Hill Ward ...	599	1949	9	9128	
Cradley Heath Ward	552	1740	13	8195	
Total ...	3676	6373	54	30791	34500

BIRTHS.

One thousand three hundred and four births have been registered during the year, viz:—six hundred and forty five males, and six hundred and fifty nine females, giving an annual birth rate of 37·8 per 1,000 inhabitants as against 36 for 1896.

MORTALITY RETURNS.

Five hundred and ninety eight deaths have been registered viz:—two hundred and ninety seven males, and three hundred and one females, giving an annual death rate of 17·3 per 1000 inhabitants as against 18·4 for 1896.

In the first quarter, one hundred and sixty four deaths were recorded, viz:—	Under five years of age	85
	Five years and upwards	79
In the second quarter, one hundred and thirty one deaths were recorded, viz.—	Under five years of age	63
	Five years and upwards	68
In the third quarter, one hundred and thirty eight deaths were recorded, viz.—	Under five years of age	85
	Five years and upwards	53
In the fourth quarter, one hundred and sixty five deaths were recorded, viz.—	Under five years of age	82
	Five years and upwards	83
		598

ANALYSIS OF DEATH RATE.

Deaths Registered	Groups of ages	Annual Death Rate
237	Under 1 year	6 87
78	Between 1 yr. and 5 yrs.	2 26
24	,, 5 yrs. ,, 15 yrs.	·7
24	,, 15 yrs ,, 25 yrs.	·7
133	,, 25 yrs. ,, 65 yrs.	3 85
102	Over 65 yrs.	2·95
598		17·33

The mortality amongst children still keeps deplorably high, viz., two hundred and thirty seven under one year and seventy eight between one and five years, making a total of three hundred and fifteen deaths under five years of age, out of a total of five hundred and ninety eight at all ages. This state of affairs, bad as it is, is a slight improvement on last year's return, when we had a mortality of three hundred and fifty seven under five years of age, out of a total of six hundred and twenty two at all ages.

These deaths have been certified as due to the following causes—

Scarlet Fever	5
Whooping Cough	8
Diarrhœa	34
Other Zymotic Diseases	5
Affections of the Respiratory Organs ...	52
Injuries	9
†Debility from Birth	93
Convulsions	18
Dentition	14
Marasmus	24
All other causes	53
	315

†Fifty four of these occurred within one month of birth.

Eleven deaths occurred outside the parish amongst persons belonging thereto, viz., ten at the Dudley Workhouse, and one at the Guest Hospital.

The following tables shew the distribution of sickness and deaths from the notified Zymotic diseases throughout the Parish at two groups of ages in specified areas, taking each ward as an area and giving the population according to the census of 1891.

TIVIDALE WARD.
Population, Census 1891, 2632.

Street List.

Brades Road.
Dingle Street.
Brades Row.
Brades Village.
Salop Street.
Albion Street.
Roway Lane.
Dudley Road.
Upper Chapel Street.
Britannia Street.
Lower Chapel Street.
Tipton Road.
Groveland Road.
Crown Bob Colliery.
Hange Colliery.
Parker's Lane.
California (back of Oakham Colliery)
City
Lye Cross.
Darby's Hill.
Oakham (Mr. Jones' side, part of).

		Small Pox.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Croup.	Erysipelas.	Enteric Fever.	Continued Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	Cholera.
First Quarter.										
Sickness	Under 5 yrs.		6							
	Over 5 yrs.		4							
Deaths	Under 5 yrs.									
	Over 5 yrs.									
Second Quarter.										
Sickness	Under 5 yrs.		1							
	Over 5 yrs.		2	1		2	2		1	
Deaths	Under 5 yrs.		1							
	Over 5 yrs.									
Third Quarter.										
Sickness	Under 5 yrs.		2		1					
	Over 5 yrs.		1			2	3			
Deaths	Under 5 yrs.									
	Over 5 yrs.						1			
Fourth Quarter.										
Sickness	Under 5 yrs.		1							
	Over 5 yrs.			1						
Deaths	Under 5 yrs.									
	Over 5 yrs.				1					

ROWLEY REGIS WARD.

Population, Census 1891, 5005.

STREET LIST.

Oakham (from boundary by Mr. Jones' to Wheatsheaf, South side).
Turner's Hill.
Birmingham Road (from Endowed School to Mr. Joseph Harper's).
Rowley Village.
Siviter's Lane.
Ross.
Shepherd's Fold.
Yew Tree Lane.
Powke Lane (from Southall's to Canal).
Moor Lane.
Bell End.
Church Road.
Hawes Lane.
Dudley Road.
Springfield Lane.
Dog Lane (above Canal).
Bullfield.
Tippity Green.
Perry's Lake.
Gadd's Green.
Hailstone Hill.
Portway Road.
Throne.
Whiteheath Gate (Chapel side).
Mineing Lane (above Oldbury Road).

		Small Pox.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Croup.	Erysipelas.	Enterie Fever.	Continued Fever.	Puerperal Fever	Cholera.
First Quarter.										
Sickness	Under 5 yrs.		4			1				
	Over 5 yrs.		7			2	2			
Deaths	Under 5 yrs					1				
	Over 5 yrs.		1							
Second Quarter.										
Sickness	Under 5 yrs.		6			1				
	Over 5 yrs.		7			3				
Deaths	Under 5 yrs.				1					
	Over 5 yrs.									
Third Quarter.										
Sickness	Under 5 yrs.		6			1				
	Over 5 yrs.		7			1	1			
Deaths	Under 5 yrs.		1							
	Over 5 yrs.		3							
Fourth Quarter.										
Sickness	Under 5 yrs.		10							
	Over 5 yrs.		15			4			1	
Deaths	Under 5 yrs.									
	Over 5 yrs.		1						1	

BLACKHEATH WARD.

Population, Census 1891, 5830.

STREET LIST.

Oldbury Road.
Mott Street.
Birmingham Road (Nos. 14—68).
High Street (except small part in Rowley Regis Ward).
Short Street.
Causeway.
Halesowen Street.
Hackett Street.
Cross Street.
John Street.
Union Street.
Darby Street.
Powke Lane. (Nos. 1—27).
Terrace Street.
Tump Road.
Holly Road.
Whiteheath Gate (Robinson's side).
Mineing Lane (four doors below Oldbury Road).
Waterfall Lane (above Canal).
Tory Street.
Gorsty Hill Road.
Granville Road (three houses above Canal).

		Smallpox.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Croup.	Erysipelas.	Enteric Fever.	Continued Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	Cholera.
First Quarter.										
Sickness	Under 5 yrs.		7							
	Over 5 yrs.		16			4				
Deaths	Under 5 yrs.									
	Over 5 yrs.									
Second Quarter.										
Sickness	Under 5 yrs.						1			
	Over 5 yrs.		1			1	2			
Deaths	Under 5 yrs						1			
	Over 5 yrs,									
Third Quarter.										
Sickness	Under 5 yrs.		11							
	Over 5 yrs.		18			4				
Deaths	Under 5 yrs.									
	Over 5 yrs.									
Fourth Quarter.										
Sickness	Under 5 yrs.		29		1	1				
	Over 5 yrs.		54	1	1	1	1			
Deaths.	Under 5 yrs.		1		1					
	Over 5 yrs.									

OLD HILL WARD.

Population, Census 1891, 9128.

STREET LIST.

Powke Lane (below Canal).
Windmill End.
Dog Lane (below Canal).
Halesowen Road.
Haden Hill.
Hayseech. Pig Lane.
Waterfall Lane (below Canal).
Granville Road.
Beauty Bank.
Cherry Orchard.
Wright's Lane.
Lion Road. Wagon St.
King St. Elbow St.
Garratt's Lane.
Best St. Cross St.
Queen Street.
Wellington Street.
Bank St. Dudley St.
Spring Meadow.
Trinity St. Mace St.
Siddaway Street.
Church St. Court St.
New St. Riddins St.
Holloway Street (late part of Riddins St.).
Jackson's St. (late part of Riddins Street).
Peartree Street.
Peartree Lane (Pack Horse side).
Lawrence Lane (the whole except part in Cradley Heath Ward).
Clarcmont Street.
Reddall Hill Road from No. 1 to Lawrence Lane on one side and from Reddall Hill Schools, back to the Cross.

		Smallpox.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Croup.	Erysipelas.	Enteric Fever.	Continued Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	Cholera.
First Quarter.										
Sickness	Under 5 yrs.		5		1					
	Over 5 yrs.		10			1			1	
Deaths	Under 5 yrs.				1					
	Over 5 yrs.		1							
Second Quarter.										
Sickness	Under 5 yrs.		4							
	Over 5 yrs.		6			3				
Deaths	Under 5 yrs.									
	Over 5 yrs.									
Third Quarter.										
Sickness	Under 5 yrs.		8							
	Over 5 yrs.		12	1		3	1			
Deaths	Under 5 yrs.									
	Over 5 yrs.		2				1			
Fourth Quarter.										
Sickness	Under 5 yrs.		11	1						
	Over 5 yrs.		23				1			
Deaths	Under 5 yrs.		1							
	Over 5 yrs.		1							

CRADLEY HEATH WARD.

Population, Census 1891, 8195.

STREET LIST.

Peartree Lane (part of Pack Horse).
Petford St. Pearson St.
Lawrence Lane (from Peartree Lane to Reddall Hill, T. Parkes & Son's side).
Plant Street.
Reddall Hill Road (part not included in Old Hill Ward).
Park St. Oak St.
Newtown St. Hingley St.
Spinner's End.
Holly Bush Street.
Meredith St. Allbutt St.
St. Luke's Street.
School Street.
Lomey Town.
Silverthorne Lane.
Forge Lane.
Wood's Lane.
Whitehall Lane.
Compton Road.
Scholding Green Road.
Cradley Road.
Grainger's Lane.
Stour Colliery.
Bee Hive Street.
Cokeland Place.
Station Street.
Chester Road.
Corngreaves Road.
Surfeit Hill.
Queen Street.
King Street.
Tibbetts' Gardens.
High Street.
Foxoak Street.
Bank Street.
Newtown Lane.
Bannister Street (top of Newtown Lane).
Providence Street.

		Smallpox.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Croup.	Erysipelas.	Enteric Fever.	Continued Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	Cholera.
First Quarter.										
Sickness	Under 5 yrs.									
	Over 5 yrs.		1			1				
Deaths	Under 5 yrs.									
	Over 5 yrs.									
Second Quarter.										
Sickness	Under 5 yrs.		1							
	Over 5 yrs.		3			2	1			
Deaths	Under 5 yrs.									
	Over 5 yrs.									
Third Quarter.										
Sickness	Under 5 yrs.		2							
	Over 5 yrs.					2			1	
Deaths	Under 5 yrs.		1							
	Over 5 yrs.									
Fourth Quarter.										
Sickness	Under 5 yrs.		3							
	Over 5 yrs.		1	1		4	3			
Deaths	Under 5 yrs.									
	Over 5 yrs.			1		2	1			

	Deaths from Notified Causes.			Deaths from Unnotified Infectious Causes.				Infectious Diseases Notified.		
	Total	Under 5 years	Over 5 years	Total	Wh'ping Cough.	Influenza	Diar-rhœa	Total	Under 5 years	Over 5 years
First Quarter	4	2	2	7	1	3	3	73	24	49
Second ,,	3	3	—	8	3	5	0	51	14	37
Third ,,	9	2	7	28	3	0	25	88	31	57
Fourth ,,	11	3	8	9	1	1	7	169	57	112
Totals	27	10	17	52	8	9	35	381	126	255

For a tabulated statement of deaths from infectious diseases see Tables IV & V.

For a Quarterly death rate per 1,000 inhabitants see Table III.

SCARLET FEVER.

This disease has been very prevalent throughout the whole of the district during the past year. Three hundred and five cases have been reported as occurring amongst one hundred and fifty nine families, and fourteen deaths have resulted from it. This shews a decrease of sixteen in the cases reported, as compared with those for the year 1896. The number of deaths is the same for both years. The type of the disease has been mild, similar to that of the two previous years.

The upper division of the parish has borne the brunt of the epidemic throughout the year, especially the Black Heath Ward. The Old Hill Ward had a few cases in each quarter, chiefly in the two last, while the Cradley Heath Ward only had eleven cases during the year.

This year 8·85 per 1000 of the total population were attacked as against 9·5 per 1000 the previous year, whilst the deaths were ·40 per thousand as against ·41 per thousand last year.

DIPTHERIA.

Six cases have been reported as occurring in six families with one death. This gives a rate of ·174 per 1000 of the population attacked.

The first case was reported on June 27th, at 87, Tipton Road, Tividale. The house was damp and dirty, the closet was dilapidated and the drains were unsatisfactory.

The second case occurred Sept. 10th, at 42, Lodgefield Road, Old Hill. The drains were defective and the house damp.

The third case occurred Nov 12th, at 37, Providence Street, Cradley Heath. In this case the sanitary surroundings were fairly good and there was no history of infection.

The fourth case occurred December 12th, at Oak street, Old Hill. In this case the pump was out of order, and the people had been using water out of the cistern. The other surroundings were satisfactory.

The fifth case occurred Dec. 20th, at Dudley Road, Tividale. There was offensive water in the cellar, and the ground near the house door which was saturated with old drainage matter, had been recently disturbed in making connections with the sewer.

The sixth case occurred Dec. 28th, at Halesowen Street, Black Heath. There was nothing in the surroundings to account for the disease.

MEMBRANOUS CROUP.

Four cases were notified as occuring in four families, and they all proved fatal. This gives the rate per 1000 of the population attacked and the death rate of ·115. They were all isolated cases.

ENTERIC FEVER.

Eighteen cases were reported as occurring in sixteen families, and four deaths have resulted from it This gives a rate of ·54 per 1000 of population attacked and a death rate of ·115 per 1000.

The following is a list of the cases in the order in which they occurred.

Feb. 25th,	1 Case	16 Perry's Lake No history of infection. Premises satisfactory.
Mar. 20th,	1 ,,	99, Springfield Lane. Leaking Closet. Untrapped drain.
May 13th,	1 ,,	West Street. Well water contaminated with surface drainage.
June 4th	1 ,,	28, Upper Chapel Street, Tividale. No history of infection.
June 10th. ,, 30th.	2 Cases	30, Oldbury Road. Foul (County) ditch at back of yard.
June 15th.	1 Case	102, Tipton Road, Tividale. Disturbance of sodden soil in making connections with sewer.
June 19th.	1 ,,	40, Meredith Street Imported.
Aug. 11th,	1 ,,	Holloway Street ,,
,, 19th.	1 ,,	13, Tippity Green Contaminated well water.

Sept. 7th. } ,, 28th. }	2 Cases	25, Tipton Road, Tividale. Badly paved and drained yard.
,, 29th.	1 Case	30, Lower Chapel Street. Water in Cellar.
Oct. 7th.	1 ,,	11, Tibbett's Gardens. Contracted while hop-picking at Newnam Bridge.
Nov. 3th.	1 ,,	1, Dudley Street No history.
,, 18th.	1 ,,	10, Darby Street Bad water.
,, 19th.	1 ,,	47, High Street, Cradley Heath Bad water.
Dec. 20th.	1 ,,	28, Corngreaves Road Bad drainage.

With the exception of the cases at No. 30 Oldbury Road and 25 Tipton Road, all the cases were disconnected. All the Sanitary defects mentioned with the exception of that at the back of No. 30, Oldbury Road, which cannot be remedied until the deep drainage is in working order, have been rectified.

PUERPERAL FEVER.

Four cases have been notified and one death has occurred. This gives a rate of ·115 per 1000 of population attacked. The cases were all disconnected.

ERYSIPELAS.

Forty-four cases have been notified as occurring in forty-four families, and three deaths have resulted from it. This gives a rate of 1·275 per 1000 of population attacked, and a mortality rate of ·089 per 1000 inhabitants.

MEASLES.

The district had been almost free from Measles, until the last quarter of the year, when an epidemic occurred at Tividale. As this disease is not notified my chief source of information is derived from the School weekly returns. The onset of this disease was very rapid, as the following statement will show.

On November 11th, 55 cases were reported absent from the Tividale Board School through Measles. On November 23rd, 42 additional cases were reported absent from the same cause.

On November 25th, 175 children were absent from the three departments.

I wrote to the Chairman of the School Board and advised him to close the schools for a month. He immediately closed them for a fortnight and promised to keep them closed for an additional fortnight if I considered it necessary. On the same date I reported the outbreak to the Local Government Board. At the end of the fortnight, finding that the epidemic was still prevalent, I advised the Chairman to keep the schools closed until after the Christmas Holidays. This was carried out. Up to the present the epidemic has not spread to any of the other wards. No deaths have been registered up to the close of the year.

WHOOPING COUGH.

This disease has been much less prevalent during the past year than in the two previous years. Eight deaths only have been recorded. Up to the end of September it was almost exclusively confined to the Old Hill and Cradley Heath Wards. In October it appeared in the Black Heath and Rowley Regis Wards. The death rate from this cause was ·232 per 1000 of the population.

DIARRHŒA.

There has been a considerable increase in the number of cases this year. In fact it is the heaviest death rate from this cause that has occurred for the last ten years. It has been general throughout the district all through the year The bulk of the cases occurred in September and October. Thirty-five deaths have been registered, thirty four of them amongst children under five years of age. I am convinced that improper feeding is responsible for a considerable number of these deaths. The death rate from this disease was 1·01 per 1000 of the population.

INFLUENZA.

Nine deaths have been registered from this disease, being an excess of one over those for the previous year. Seven of these deaths occurred during the first half year, one in July and one in December. Very few cases occurred between July and the beginning of November, when it re-appeared in an epidemic form throughout the district. Many of the cases assumed a typhoid type, abdominal symptoms being very prevalent. The death rate from this cause was ·259 per 1,000 of the inhabitants.

The following table shews the deaths from zymotic diseases for the last fifteen years.

Cause of Death.	1883	1884	1885	1886	1887	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897
Small Pox	5	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	43	33	15	3	1	5	7	2	7	2	2	10	25	14	14
Measles	9	17	32	6	17	23	7	59	12	20	5	33	8	50	0
Diphtheria	1	1	5	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	1	2	1
Wh'ping C'gh	55	2	11	20	4	57	15	11	8	14	28	7	25	27	8
Contd. Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Typdoid ,,	6	11	3	2	4	1	9	3	9	3	9	5	3	6	4
Diarrhœa	19	19	17	17	17	17	3	28	19	10	26	9	24	12	35
Croup	0	0	0	2	5	6	5	12	5	4	13	8	4	6	4
Erysipelas	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	1	0	7	2	3	2	2	3
Influenza	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	12	21	16	3	10	8	9
Cholera	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
P'peral Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1
Totals	138	84	86	51	50	110	46	118	72	83	104	80	104	127	79

PREVENTITIVE MEASURES ADOPTED.

Visiting each case as soon as possible after notification, supplying disinfectants, issuing a circular warning patients against exposing themselves in public before they are free from the disease, and before the house and clothing have been fumigated; preventing children from infected houses from attending School; cleansing and whitewashing all dirty or infected houses; fumigating all infected houses, clothing, &c., with sulphur fumes; cleansing drains and watercourses; insisting on a pure water supply in all suspicious cases, and removing all Smallpox cases to hospital; disinfecting by Steam Disinfector any clothing, bedding, &c. of any parishioner who is willing to pay a fee of 10/- for so doing. Valuable information is obtained from the head teachers of the Elementary Schools, supplying me (gratuitiously) weekly, with returns of the number of scholars absent from their respective schools from any infectious disease. This information is extremely useful in the unnotified infectious diseases. I here wish to express my thanks to them for the uniform kindness and readiness with which they have complied with my wishes.

EPITOME OF SANITARY WORK FOR THE PAST YEAR

DEEP DRAINAGE.

The Upper Stour Valley Main Sewerage Board's outfall works at Tividale being ready, the Council has sewered that ward of their district and during the past year has caused the house drainage to be connected with the sewers and so far as that part of the district is concerned the sewerage arrangements may be considered complete.

I am indebted to Mr. W. Whitworth, our Assistant Engineer for the following account of house connections at Tividale. "Since last May the drainage from four hundred and fifteen houses has been connected with the new sewers recently laid at Tividale. Earthenware pipes 5 in. in diameter have been used for all main drains, while all smaller branches are 4in. in diameter.

The depth of the main 5in. drain at the rear of the line of the buildings is with a few exceptions deep enough to allow for the future insertion of either water closets or waste water closets.

The joints of the 4in. pipes have been made with gaskin and clay and the pipes laid as shallow as safety would allow to admit of their being converted into feeders for the waste water closets as easily as possible. 2in. earthenware sink bends have been built into the existing brick sinks and made to empty into a channel 18in. away from the gully.

8in. earthenware gullies surrounded by blue mitred bricks have been chiefly used when making the connections."

As to the remainder of the district, the Council is at the present time engaged in laying the sewers in the various streets, and a very great

amount of this work has been done in the Cradley Heath, Old Hill and Blackheath wards. This is to be followed up immediately by the connection of the house drainage as in the case of the Tividale Ward, and instructions have been given for this work to be commenced. The sewerage of the district other than that from the Tividale Ward, will be discharged from the collecting sewers into the upper Stour Valley Main Sewerage Board's Conduit, which will convey it to their farm at Whittington, and this Board is responsible to deal with the sewage.

Efforts are being made to substitute water closets for the present midden closets. wherever possible, and in cases where the circumstances are such as to bring them within the provisions of the Act of Parliament. This work is being enforced, but it will probably be years before the midden closets are dispensed with, and in the meantime the Council will probably have to bear the undesirable conditions and expense which attend the removal of the night soil.

CELLAR DRAINAGE.

The drainage of cellars is a matter which calls for very serious consideration, as an imperfect and unsealed trap, in this situation, is such a certain and fatal means of ingress, to a house, of sewer gas. It is best that cellars should not be drained, but that they should have a shallow catchpit to catch the water used in washing the floor, which should be ladled out after each cleansing, or that the catchpit should be done away with, and that they should be washed and cleansed as an ordinary floor Where it is only possible to have cellars that require drainage, it is best to do away with them altogether, except in very exceptional circumstances, as however carefully cellars are connected with sewers there will always be a great risk of introducing sewer gas into the house, bringing with it those terrible diseases, Enteric Fever and Diphtheria.

NIGHT SOIL.

In supplement to the above remarks re Night Soil, in connection with the house drainage, I beg to say in regard to the night soil removal, that the work continues to be done much better than was the case a few years ago, but it still has its difficulties, and complaints about tips and the difficulty about securing suitable sites for tips, shews that at the best it is a very unsatisfactory and troublesome part of the Council's work, requiring a great amount of ingenuity on the part of the Council and its officers to secure anything like decency.

PAVING FOOTPATHS.

This work is being systematically carried out in each Ward.

MORTUARY.

A Public Mortuary has been built at Garratt's Lane in the Old Hill Ward. It is also proposed to build one at Tividale as soon as a suitable site can be secured.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

The providing an Isolation Hospital for this district alone or joining other districts for the purpose of forming a combined area is a matter awaiting the action of the Staffordshire County Council. When that Council has matured its arrangements, the Rowley Regis Urban District Council will be prepared to enter into negotiations with a view of forming a satisfactory scheme for providing and maintaining a hospital, or its proportion of the cost of a joint hospital.

WATER SUPPLY.

Fifty-seven samples of Water have been analysed and have all been condemned as unfit for use. Two hundred and four houses have been supplied with the South Staffordshire Water Works Co's water.

The same grievance still exists in several parts of the district, especially at Blackheath and Old Hill of intermittent supply of water by the S.S.W.W.Co. Two samples of this company's water, taken at two points in the district were submitted for analysis and found to be unsatisfactory. I annex a copy of the analyst's certificate.

No. 1 (Sample 63) Taken from Reservoir at Rowley. "This sample of water does not show sewage or animal contamination but it contains more organic matter (apparently of vegetable origin) than is desirable in a drinking water."

No. 2 (Sample 64) Taken at Cradley Road. "This is not a first-rate water but in its present condition I should not really condemn it."

(Signed) E. W. T. JONES, F.I.C.,

Public Analyst for the County of Stafford, &c.

Turner's Hill and District are in the same condition as mentioned in my previous report.

PORTWAY AND THRONE. The S.S.W.W.Co. decline to supply this area without a contribution from the District Council to cover so much of the cost of laying mains as is in excess of the amount upon which the revenue from water rates will produce the percentage to which they are entitled.

The Council is therefore proceeding to define an area and rate the same for the production of the contribution required and when this part of the matter is settled it is proposed to give them orders for the water to be laid on.

INSANITARY AREAS

TIBBETT'S GARDENS. This locality which has for a long time been a standing menace to the health of the District is now to be dealt with in a comprehensive scheme which is to include the making of a new street through it and provision for its efficient drainage.

SHEPHERD'S FOLD. The drainage in this locality is still very defective, and I hope it will be dealt with as soon as the sewers are in a condition to receive the drainage therefrom.

INSANITARY HOUSES.

Nos. 1-8 Lower Chapel St., Tividale. Nos. 70-72 Dudley Road, Tividale. 38, Tipton Road, Tividale. Nos. 3-5 Pear Street, Old Hill, have all been condemned as unfit for human habitation, unless cleansed repaired and put in a sanitary condition to the satisfaction of the Council. With the exception of No. 70 and 72, Dudley Road. Tividale, the orders have all been complied with, and in the latest case the time has not yet expired.

PROLONGED RETENTION OF THE DEAD BEFORE BURIAL.

The custom of keeping the dead for a considerable time (frequently six or seven days) before burial is a serious matter, especially when the death occurs in a small house crowded with inhabitants. The provision of a mortuary may assist, if the people can only be persuaded to avail themselves of it. In all deaths from infectious disease, the provisions of Section 8 Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act are carried out. In cases of death from non-infectious disease, I am afraid that moral suasion is the only force that we can employ, unless Section 10 of the Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act could been forced, when "the dead body of any person is retained in the house, so as to endanger the health of the inmates of that house, &c., &c." One of the chief causes of the delay especially amongst the poorer classes is that a funeral is looked upon as a great ceremony, and the greater the display, the more respect shown to the deceased. Many of the people are in Death Clubs from which they draw the means of providing for the funeral, obtaining the mourning clothes, &c. Sunday is a favourite day for burying as it does not occasion loss of time from work. The introduction of a little funeral reform and the substitution of common sense for sentiment would do much to lessen this evil.

OVERCROWDING.

Nine cases of overcrowding have been brought before the notice of the Council. This is a constant occurrence in this district, and must continue so unless more house accommodation is provided.

INSPECTION UNDER THE FACTORY ACT.

A number of inspections have been made under this Act, and as in my previous report, the chief causes of complaint have been insufficient closet accommodation.

CONTRAVENTION OF THE INFECTIOUS DISEASES (PREVENTION) ACT.

A summons was ordered to be issued against a man named French, living at 32, Fox Oak Street, Cradley Heath, for exposing his two chil-

dren, whilst suffering from Scarlet Fever. The man has absconded and consequently the summons has not been served.

UNWHOLESOME MEAT.

Mrs. Georgina Davis was fined £5 and costs for exposing 220 lbs of meat, consisting of beef, mutton, pork and sausages, all in various stages of decomposition and totally unfit for human food.

Frequent complaints had been made about the inferior quality of meat sold in the open air markets but this was the only occasion we have been able to make a seizure for some time. On Dec. 28, Mr. Barnsley brought a carcase of veal to my house The flesh was moist, flabby, dark coloured and had not been properly bled. I considered it totally unfit for human food and condemned it as such.

VACCINATION.

PARISH OF ROWLEY REGIS.

Vaccination Returns for the Year ending Dec. 31st, 1897.

	Total number of Births ...	1304
No. 1 District.	Successfully Vaccinated by Public Vaccinator	200
	,, ,, Private Practitioner	200
No. 2 District,	,, ,, Public Vaccinator	45
	,, ,, Private Practitioner	484
	Insusceptable of Vaccination ...	2
	Died Unvaccinated	124
	Postponed by Medical Certificate ...	30
	*Not Vaccinated	*219
		1304

*Of this number many of the children are not three months old, and are therefore not at present liable to be vaccinated. This statement is supplied by Mr. L. B. Allen, Vaccination Officer.

The number of unvaccinated children is again in excess of that for last year. The old practice of vaccinating in one or two places is still continued by some of the private practitioners. I reiterate my previously expressed opinion that vaccination, unless thorough is, but little, if any, protection against Smallpox.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, I beg to thank all the officers of the Council and the Parish who have assisted me with information for this Annual Report and I wish especially to thank Mr. D. Wright, Mr. Brettell, Mr. Barnsley, Mr. W. Whitworth, Messrs. J. & T. Williams, and Mr. D. Darby, also Dr. Tuxford, of the Guest Hospital, Dudley. I also wish to express my thanks to the Head Teachers of the various Elementary Schools for the great assistance they have rendered me during the year, by supplying me with weekly returns of the number of Scholars absent from school through Infectious Disease.

I append the Schedule of work done in the departments of the Surveyor, and the Sanitary Inspector as furnished by each of those Officers.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

J. G. BEASLEY,

Medical Officer of Health to the Rowley Regis Urban District Council.

SUMMARY of SANITARY WORK done in the Inspector of Nuisances' Department during the year 1897, in the Urban Sanitary District of Rowley Regis, Staffordshire.

		Inspections and Observations made	Formal Notices by Authority.	Nuisances abated after Notice.
Dwelling houses and Schools	Foul Conditions ...	382	96	95 1 after prosecution
	Structural Defects ...	18	18	18
	Overcrowding ...	9	9	9
	Unfit for Habitation ..	8	4	4
	Lodging houses ...	—	—	—
	Dairies and Milkshops ..	90	2	2
	Cowsheds ...	118	1	1
	Bakehouses ...	—	—	—
	Slaughter houses ...	69	—	—
	Canal Boats ..	142	5	5
	Ashpits and Privies ...	4287	87	87
	Deposits of Refuse and Manure ...	21	21	21
	Water Closets ...	43	—	—
House Drainage	Defective Traps ...	—	—	—
	No Disconnection ...	15	12	12
	Other Faults ...	—	—	—
	Water Supply ...	168	27	27
	Pigsties ...	13	13	13
	Animals improperly kept ...	11	11	11
	Offensive Trades ...	—	—	—
	Smoke Nuisances ...	—	—	—
	Other Nuisances ...	—	—	—
	Totals ...			

	Nos.
Seizures of Unwholesome Food	2
Samples of Food taken for Analysis	—
,, ,, found Adulterated	—
,, of Water taken for analysis	57
,, ,, Condemned as unfit for use. ...	57

Precautions against Infectious Disease.

Lots of Infected Bedding stoved or Destroyed... ...	827
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease	233
Schools ,, ,, ,, ...	—
Prosecutions for not notifying existence of Infectious Disease	—
Convictions ,, ,, ,, ,,	—
Prosecutions for Exposure of Infected Persons or Things ...	—
Convictions ,, ,, ,, ,,	—

NOTE.—Where an inspection or Notice embraces more than one defect it may be enumerated separately as regards each such defect.

Signed E. T. BARNSLEY,

FEB. 1st, 1898. Inspector of Nuisances.

Rowley Regis Urban District Council.

Pipes Laid in 1897. by Roadmen

50	yards of	4in.	in Halesowen Street
12	,,	9in.	in Gipsy Lane
195	,,	6in.	,,
10	,,	9in.	,,
22	,,	30in.	in Haden Road
12	,,	3in.	in Halesowen Road
40	,,	12in	at Cradley Heath
32	,,	9in.	in Powke Lane
4	,,	12in.	,,
20	,,	9in.	in Wright's Lane
20	,,	6in.	at Oakham
417	Totals		

The following houses have been supplied with the South Staffordshire Water Works Co's water, in the year ending December, 1897.

January	7	August	17
February	3	September	25
March	17	October	18
April	9	November	10
May	29	December	13
June	14		
July	42	Total	204

Schedule of Work done in the Department of the Surveyor, Mr. W. BRETTELL.

Kerbing and Channelling laid in 1897.

JANUARY.	474	yards	on Rowley Road.
	34	,,	in Halesowen Street
FEBRUARY	65	,,	on Rowley Road
	43	,,	in Halesowen Street
MARCH.	58	,,	on Tividale Road
	100	,,	in Oldbury Road
APRIL.	110	,,	in Oldbury Road
MAY.	321	,,	in Oldbury Road
JUNE.	282	,,	in Oldbury Road
	64	,,	at Windmill End
JULY.	216	,,	in Wright's Lane
	250	,,	in Halesowen Road
AUGUST.	370	,,	in Halesowen Road
SEPTEMBER	284	,,	in Halesowen Road
DECEMBER	332	,,	in Grainger's Lane
	20	,,	in Dog Lane
	3023	Total	

List of ditches cleaned out by Roadmen in 1897

JANUARY.	37	yards	at Beauty Bank. Old Hill
	52	,,	at the back of Cooksey's Hotel, Old Hill
MARCH.	37	,,	at Beauty Bank, Old Hill.
	62	,,	in Oldbury Road
	52	,,	at the back of Cooksey's Hotel, Old Hill
	41	,,	at Yewtree Lane
APRIL.	37	,,	at Beauty Bank, Old Hill.
	35	,,	in the Fly Watercourse, Garratt's Lane
	28	,,	at Oakham
	320	,,	in Mincing Lane

May.	52	yards	at the back of Cooksey's Hotel, Old Hill
	709	,,	in Oldbury Road
	170	,,	at Hayseech
	101	,,	in Mott Street, Blackheath
June.	31	,,	at Ross
	150	,,	in Peartree Street, Old Hill
	37	,,	at Beauty Bank, Old Hill
	54	,,	at Hayseech
	151	,,	in Lower Chapel Street, Tividale.
	61	,,	in Four Ways Churchyard, Cradley Heath
	71	,,	at Lomey Town, Cradley Heath
	78	,,	at Bearmore, ,,
July.	67	,,	in Peartree Street, Old Hill
	52	,,	at the back of Cooksey's Hotel, Old Hill
	1124	,,	in Oldbury Road
August.	52	,,	at the back of Cooksey's Hotel, Old Hill
	252	,,	at Bell End
	37	,,	at Beauty Bank, Old Hill
	327	,,	in Mincing Lane
September.	52	,,	at the back of Cooksey's Hotel, Old Hill
	37	,,	at Beauty Bank
	52	,,	in Halesowen Rd., Old Hill, nr G.W.R.Co's bridge
	51	,,	at Hayseech
	52	,,	at back of Cooksey's Hotel, Old Hill
	4521	Totals	